



**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

**Russ Chew 1-800-FAA-NEWS Phone Message  
May 5th, 2006**

Hello, this is Russ Chew with the update for May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Today I'd like to say a few words about the importance and privilege of public service. This week we honor the men and women who serve America as federal, state and local government employees.

Celebrated in the first week of May, Public Service Recognition Week allows public employees to educate citizens about the ways a democratic government functions, and provides a chance to showcase career opportunities in public service.

To mark the occasion, the FAA sponsored an exhibit on the National Mall focusing on careers in aviation, as well as the current technologies used in the national airspace system.

We in the FAA have a great story to tell. We have some 43,000 dedicated government employees working to serve the traveling public and the businesses that depend on a reliable air transportation system.

And speaking of serving the traveling public, we maintain a ten-year hiring plan that we update every year, to make sure we have the right

number of air traffic controllers in place at the time when thousands of controllers will be retiring in the next decade. The good news is that we have more than enough highly qualified applicants in the pipeline right now to more than meet our needs.

There are three ways an individual can enter the air traffic controller applicant pools. One is as a graduate of one of the fourteen Collegiate Training Initiative Schools, known as the CTI program. The other choices are to apply on-line for announcements for either retired military air traffic controllers, or military controllers who have not reached their thirty first birthday.

Also this week, Joe Pino and JC Johns were recognized as "Managers of the Month" by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, or AFSCME. The award was given for exemplary leadership, reflecting Joe and JC's management and team-building skills, along with their drive to work with their employees to improve productivity. In both cases, these managers were cited by AFSCME as leaders that their bargaining unit employee members would "give their eyeteeth to work for."

Finally for this week, the Administrator gave testimony this week in the Senate on the FAA's 2007 Budget. She highlighted the progress that the FAA and ATO has made over the past three years, not just to the flying public, but to the taxpayer as well. By setting up improved management tools, including better cost accounting systems, we have made more efficient use of our resources -- and are producing

more measurable value in the delivery of our air traffic control services.

This hasn't been easy, and we still have a long way to go, but I'd like to again thank each and every ATO employee for taking part. You should all be very proud of the progress we have made so far.

That's all for this week. Thanks for listening.